

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION



## Information Letter



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### Tariff Bill Becomes Law

With the adoption of by the House on June 14 of the conference report on the tariff bill, Congress completed its work on tariff legislation and the bill went to the President for approval. The bill was signed June 17, and became effective at midnight of the same date.

The questions at issue between the House and Senate have previously been referred to in the Information Letter. The conference report approved the Senate increases over the House rates on canned milk, dried beans, green peas, canned tomatoes, sauerkraut, maraschino cherries, and canned oysters. The report rejected the proposed Senate decrease on canned clams and chick peas, but accepted the decreases made by the Senate on mushrooms and truffles. Reference to the rates in the House and Senate bills on products of interest to the canning industry will be found in the Information Letters for March 29 and April 12.

### Box and Crate Construction

A bulletin entitled "Principles of Box and Crate Construction" has been issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture as Technical Bulletin 171. This publication includes information on types of boxes and crates and materials used for their construction and methods of testing such containers. U. S. specifications for fibre and wooden boxes are also given. Copies of this bulletin may be secured from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for 55 cents apiece.

## Canning Crop Conditions

The following tables give the condition of snap beans, sweet corn, and tomatoes for manufacture on June 1, 1930, compared with condition on May 15, 1930, June 1, 1929 and with the ten-year average. These condition figures were compiled from reports which represent canners' and growers' judgment on those portions of the crops which were sufficiently advanced on June 1 to determine condition, and consequently, may not be representative of the entire acreage of the various crops. This is especially true of snap beans and tomatoes, for which plantings are as yet incomplete.

## SNAP BEANS

STATE	June 1, 1930	May 15, 1930	June 1, 1929	10 yr. average June 1
	P. ct.	P. ct.	P. ct.	P. ct.
Maine .....	71	*100	97	80
New York .....	97	*100	*75	90
Pennsylvania .....	80	*100	75	77
N. Atlantic .....	90	100	78	88
Indiana .....	87	70	85	77
Michigan .....	a	95	95	90
Wisconsin .....	93	91	70	84
N. Central .....	88	88	84	85
Delaware .....	87	90	95	86
Maryland .....	88	89	87	84
So. Carolina .....	a	a	70	680
S. Atlantic .....	88	89	88	81
Tennessee .....	78	83	62	78
Mississippi .....	53	45	83	75
Arkansas .....	78	82	74	83
Louisiana .....	78	78	a	..
S. Central .....	70	75	75	78
Colorado .....	*100	*100	*100	89
Utah .....	91	70	88	90
Washington .....	90	a	a	87
Oregon .....	88	*100	95	86
California .....	93	a	81	90
Western .....	94	84	93	88
Other States c .....	90	87	73	78
U. S. Average .....	85	80	82	84

## SWEET CORN

STATE	June 1, 1930	May 15, 1930	June 1, 1929	10 yr. average June 1
	P. ct.	P. ct.	P. ct.	P. ct.
Maine .....	72	75	..	84
New York .....	96	a	74	79
Pennsylvania .....	80	*90	89	83
N. Atlantic .....	86	78	78	81
Ohio .....	83	88	58	74
Indiana .....	91	82	59	80
Illinois .....	100	95	87	84
Michigan .....	*100	a	a	88
Wisconsin .....	91	95	81	82
Minnesota .....	90	*100	82	84
Iowa .....	92	*100	86	84
Nebraska .....	89	a	84	87
N. Central .....	88	86	79	81
Delaware .....	*88	86	90	79
Maryland .....	88	85	77	77
S. Atlantic .....	87	84	78	77
Other States c .....	85	..	80	83
U. S. Average .....	91	94	78	81

STATE	TOMATOES			
	June 1, 1930 P. ct.	May 15, 1930 P. ct.	June 1, 1929 P. ct.	10 yr. average June 1 P. ct.
New York .....	88	*100	90	86
New Jersey .....	88	88	83	82
Pennsylvania .....	88	85	85	81
N. Atlantic .....	91	91	86	83
Ohio .....	89	100	85	82
Indiana .....	85	94	73	73
Illinois .....	98	96	89	76
Michigan .....	83	*100	83	80
Iowa .....	92	*83	87	80
Missouri .....	85	86	82	78
N. Central .....	86	93	78	76
Delaware .....	80	94	82	75
Maryland .....	88	85	80	80
Virginia .....	80	87	84	75
S. Atlantic .....	83	88	81	78
Kentucky .....	79	95	74	71
Tennessee .....	83	75	78	77
Arkansas .....	90	98	73	77
S. Central .....	86	92	74	76
Colorado .....	82	*100	*80	84
Utah .....	90	94	83	80
California .....	89	..	75	81
Western .....	89	86	78	80
Other States c .....	93	88	81	81
U. S. Average .....	87	91	80	79

a No. report.

b Four-year average.

c For Snap Beans, "Other States" group includes Ala., Ill., Iowa, Kansas, Ky., Minn., Mo., Mont., Nebr., N. J., Ohio, Okla., Va., Wyo.; for Sweet Corn: Colo., Idaho, Ky., Mont., S. Dak., Wash., Wyo., Ore., Va.; for Tomatoes: Conn., Kansas, Nebr., N. Mex., Okla., Ore., S. C., Wash., W. Va., Wis.

\*Condition not representative due to insufficient reports or earliness of season.

### Foreign Substances in Canned Foods

Each member of the Association will receive with this Information Letter a copy of Bulletin No. 107-A, just issued by the Association, giving suggestions for keeping foreign substances out of canned foods. If members have any comments or criticisms to offer regarding these suggestions, the Washington office of the Association will be glad to receive them.

A copy of this bulletin is being sent to every canner in the United States and a supply will also be sent to secretaries of state and local associations. Additional copies will be furnished to members upon request.

### Field Laboratory in Michigan

The bacteriological field laboratory, now stationed at Newark, N. Y., will move to Croswell, Michigan, and operate there the week of June 23-28. The laboratory may be reached in care of W. R. Roach & Company, Croswell.

For the week of June 30th, the laboratory will again move to Fremont, Michigan, where it may be reached in care of the Fremont Canning Company.

Further advance notice of the laboratory's movements will be given from time to time.

## Truck Crop Markets

First shipments of 25 carloads of new-crop apples, chiefly from Illinois, Tennessee and northern California, were reported for the week ended June 14, according to the U. S. Market News Service.

Movement of Georgia peaches last week had increased to 205 cars, but was only half as heavy as a year ago. North Carolina shipped half a dozen cars, and the season was beginning in South Carolina and Alabama. California's total was 25 cars. String beans were moving very actively from North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. Tomato shipments, chiefly from Mississippi and Texas, continued at the high rate of 325 cars daily. Movement of cabbage from Tennessee increased, while Virginia decreased. Watermelon shipments from Florida, California, and Texas together doubled to a daily average of 300 cars. The strawberry season was rapidly closing.

Citrus fruits promise to be much more abundant than last season, with June condition reported around 80 per cent of normal in Florida and 95 per cent in California. Production of peaches and apples may be just about the same as the light crops of 1929, but pears may be 7 per cent more plentiful. Only in New York and California is the condition of the cherry crop better than that of last year. Michigan and most of the western states report lower condition for cherries than in 1929. Nearly all California fruits promise to be abundant.

Combined movement of 32 fruits and vegetables decreased slightly to 18,600 cars, mainly because of lighter shipments of cantaloupes, cucumbers, and strawberries.

## CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	June 8-14 1930	June 1-7 1930	June 8-15 1929	Total this season to June 14	Total last season to June 15	Total last season
<b>Apples:</b>						
1930 season .....	26	2	61	28	75	102,422
1929 season .....	170	399	132	102,422	127,361	127,330
Asparagus .....	29	35	34	2,653	2,001	3,110
Cabbage .....	609	668	754	14,706	21,053	44,142
Carrots .....	285	276	396	8,900	8,748	12,108
Cherries .....	243	266	163	1,050	659	2,298
Cucumbers .....	547	635	386	4,007	4,653	7,456
Green peas .....	50	19	64	3,659	2,976	5,197
Mixed deciduous fruit ..	128	67	127	529	167	5,192
Mixed vegetables .....	274	788	519	17,456	19,146	32,439
Peaches .....	244	154	431	413	946	35,461
Peppers .....	67	165	124	1,879	1,916	3,394
Plums and prunes .....	488	248	237	866	863	6,045
Strawberries .....	99	625	297	11,642	16,467	19,721
String beans .....	646	664	333	7,697	6,626	6,627
Tomatoes .....	2,288	2,429	2,195	14,116	15,837	21,646

### Truck Crop Prospects

*Cabbage.*—An increase of 3 per cent over last year's crop is indicated in the production that is forecast for the intermediate group of states, although the estimated acreage is 2 per cent smaller than the 1929 acreage. Combining the forecast of this group with the preliminary estimate of production in the fall and early groups and the previously reported indications for the second early group, a decrease of 20 per cent below the 1929 production is shown for this season on 16 per cent less acreage.

*Asparagus.*—A production slightly above the 1929 crop is forecast for the late group of states, on an estimated acreage 3 per cent greater than the acreage in 1929. Combining the estimate for this group of states with the early group an increase of 16 per cent over last year is indicated in the commercial production for shipment in the United States.

*Snap Beans.*—The estimated acreage in the intermediate group of states is 3 per cent more than in 1929 and the forecast 4 per cent greater than the estimated 1929 production. Condition of the crop on June 1 indicates lower yields for all states in this group except Illinois and New Jersey. All states reported to date for the 1930 crop have an estimated acreage 13 per cent greater and an indicated production 8 per cent larger than in 1929, when these states had about 89 per cent of the total commercial acreage and production reported for shipment in the United States.

*Cucumbers.*—An increase of 38 per cent over the 1929 production is indicated in the forecast for the second early group of states, although the estimated acreage is only 25 per cent larger than the 1929 acreage. The total number of states reported to date for 1930 show an increase of 21 per cent in the production forecast and 26 per cent in the estimated acreage over last year's crop.

*Beets.*—An increase of 36,000 bushels over last year's crop is indicated in the production forecast for New Jersey. The acreage is reported to be the same as in 1929.

*Carrots.*—The production forecast for the intermediate group of states is 15 per cent above last year's production and the estimated acreage is 2 per cent larger than the 1929 acreage. States growing about 88 per cent of the total commercial acreage reported for shipment in 1929 have been reported to date and show a decrease of 8 per cent in both acreage and production.

### Wholesale and Retail Prices in May

A pronounced drop in the general level of wholesale prices from April to May is shown by information collected in leading markets of the country by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The bureau's weighted index number, based on average prices in 1926 as 100.0, stands at 89.1 for May, compared with 90.7 for April, a decrease of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  per cent. Compared with May, 1929, with an index number of 95.8, a decrease of 7 per cent is shown.

Retail food prices in the United States as reported to the bureau showed a decrease of slightly less than three-fourths of 1 per cent on May 15, when compared with April 15, and a decrease of a little more than 2 per cent since May 15, 1929. The bureau's weighted index numbers, with average prices in 1913 as 100.0, were 153.3 for May 15 a year ago, 151.2 for April 15, 1930 and 150.1 for May 15, 1930. During the month from April 15 to May 15, canned foods on which monthly prices were secured decreased as follows: Evaporated milk, pork and beans, and canned peas, 1 per cent. Canned tomatoes increased 2 per cent; while canned red salmon and canned corn showed no change in price.

### Poultry Used in Canning

The Market News Service of the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics has issued the following report on the quantities of poultry canned or used in canning:

	May, 1930 Pounds	April, 1930 <sup>b</sup> Pounds
Dressed poultry canned or used in canning .....	1,602,226	1,847,053
Drawn poultry canned or used in canning a .....	414,816	267,653
Total .....	2,016,542	2,114,710
Number of firms reporting .....	29	84

a The figures for drawn poultry have been converted to an undrawn basis, assuming a 25 per cent shrinkage in drawing.

b Revised to include late reports.

### Business Conditions

Business for the week ended June 14, as measured by the volume of checks presented for payment, was more than 6 per cent greater than the preceding week but 10 per cent lower than for the same period a year ago, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce. The volume of building in 37 states, as shown by the value of contracts awarded, registered gains over the preceding week and the week ended June 15, 1929.

Wholesale prices for commodities, showing but slight change from a year ago, were lower than for the same period last year.

Bank loans and discounts for the week ended June 14 were slightly less than the preceding week but were 3 per cent greater than the corresponding period of last year. Prices for stocks registered declines from both comparative periods. Bond prices, while showing no change from the preceding week, were 2 per cent higher than a year ago.

Interest rates for call money were lower than both comparative periods. Time loan rates remained at the same level of the preceding week but were lower than the same period last year.

Movement of commodities by rail, as shown by statistics covering the latest reported week, were greater than the preceding week but less than for the same week in 1929.

## CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended June 7 .....	935,647	309,442	243,733	322,432
Preceding week .....	860,349	341,402	215,735	303,032
Corresponding week, 1929 .....	1,053,768	420,282	260,360	373,126
Corresponding week, 1928 .....	893,570	383,854	256,171	353,545

## Cold Storage Holdings

Cold storage holdings of fruit on June 1, according to the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, were:

	June 1, 1930	June 1, 1929	5-year average
Apples:			
Barrels .....	94,000	108,000	100,000
Boxes .....	798,000	631,000	670,000
Bushels .....	309,000	220,000	150,000
Pears:			
Boxes .....	21,000	20,000	20,000
Barrels .....		3,000	2,000
Frozen and preserved fruit (pounds) ....	33,859,000	42,285,000	32,549,000

## Dry Bean Situation

The low point in the foreign market situation for white beans during the 1929-30 season appears to have been reached, although little is reported from abroad to warrant the expectation of any great advance in prices until new crop developments are better known. Prices generally in Antwerp and in Rumania reached a low point in March, and there was a tendency toward higher prices in April. Prices of foreign beans in New York reached a low level in April and most varieties advanced slightly in May. Stocks in Antwerp and Marseille are low. There are ample supplies in Rumania but there appears to be a tendency to hold them for higher prices. There is a



large Chilean crop of the export varieties of white and red beans now coming on the market, for which there is little demand in Europe.

Present early prospects for the new crop are for a rather keen competition from Europe and Chile. The new marketing season bids fair to start with a fairly large carry-over of good quality beans in Rumania and heavy stocks in Chile. With average seedings reported in Rumania and generally favorable early growing conditions, early prospects there are for at least an average crop. Less is known of stocks in Japan. Receipts have been falling off in Europe but this may be due to a tendency of the Japanese to hold back their supplies rather than to an exhaustion of stocks.

Early reports point to average crops or better in Rumania and Chile, whose beans compete with those in the United States. It is still too early for any definite indication of the probable size of crops. No report has been received pointing to any change in United States bean acreage from that indicated in the intentions reports of farmers. An increase of 15 per cent in plantings over the 1929 harvested area is indicated for the United States as a whole, 15 and 10 per cent respectively in Michigan and New York, the centers of pea bean production, and 20 and 23 per cent respectively in New Mexico and Colorado, the pinto bean producing states.

#### Farm Prices Decline

The general level of prices received by producers on May 15 reached the lowest level so far this season, and still lower market prices in the second week of June probably have reduced farm prices to the lowest level since 1922.

The index of farm prices declined 3 points from 127 on April 5 to 124 on May 15 as compared with 136 in May last year. Most of the commodities in the index showed declines except apples and potatoes. Compared with last year's prices, fruit and vegetable prices are higher, all the others are lower.

During the second week of June, prices of grains, butter, eggs, cotton, cattle and hogs were lower than on May 15. Wool prices remained unchanged.

This downward trend in farm prices has been accompanied by a general decline in non-agricultural prices both in this country and abroad.



### **Fruit Fly Fight in Florida Resumed**

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the State Plant Board, has resumed work in Florida on the Mediterranean fruit fly problem. Funds at the disposal of the Department will permit the Department to undertake spray or cleanup work only where actual infestations occur. In cases of actual infestation, this cleanup and spray work will be done under authority of the State Plant Board, an organization which performed most valuable service last season in the eradication campaign, according to Secretary Hyde, and which will fill a necessary place in the work now under way.

The intensive cleanup and spray work must be carried out by the growers with the Department giving such assistance as is possible in the way of information and service. Intensive inspections will be continued, and it is hoped conditions will justify an order permitting the shipment of citrus fruits originating outside the zones not actually infested, without sterilization, to the northeast, and middle west.

### **Employment in May**

The U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports a slight change in employment in the combined 13 industrial groups surveyed in May, as compared with April. Reports to the department from other sources indicate an improvement in employment conditions, notably in the building trades which, however, are not covered in the bureau's employment figures.

May ordinarily shows little net change in employment in the 13 industrial groups surveyed by the bureau. Excluding manufacturing, the total for the remaining 12 groups shows an increase of one-tenth of 1 per cent in employment and a gain of 1 per cent in pay-roll totals. Manufacturing industries, which have shown declines from April to May in 5 of the 7 years preceding 1930, reported a decrease of 1.6 per cent in employment and a loss of 2.4 per cent in earnings. The combined total for the 13 groups, covering 39,422 establishments with 5,063,116 workers whose earnings in one week were \$135,496,232, shows 0.9 per cent fewer employees and a decrease of 1.2 per cent in pay-roll totals in May.

### **Shipments of Canned Grapefruit from Florida Ports**

Shipments of canned grapefruit from Florida ports from the beginning of the current season through June 14, 1930,

have amounted to 66,742 cases, of which 58,473 went to the United Kingdom, 8,179 to Canada, 40 to Germany, 25 to the Netherlands, and 25 to Italy, according to figures secured from Florida customhouses and forwarded to the Department of Commerce in Washington by its Jacksonville District Office.

#### **Exports of Italian Cherries in 1929**

Total exports of cherries in brine from Italy amounted to 25,419,038 pounds valued at \$2,696,075 during 1929, as compared with 19,144,746 pounds and \$1,661,932 during 1928, according to figures forwarded to the Department of Commerce in a report dated May 22, from the American consul at Naples.

#### **Pellagra Preventive Action of Canned Haddock**

In connection with research relating to the pellagra-preventive properties of various food substances, the United States Public Health Service has recently announced the results of further studies covering several food products, including canned haddock and dried green peas. Canned haddock was found to have considerable value as a pellagra-preventive, while dried green peas contained the preventive factor only in a relatively small amount. A report on these two foods is published in "Public Health Reports," Volume 45, No. 23 (June 6, 1930).

#### **Weather Conditions**

Rainfall was heavy in the lower Missouri and central Mississippi Valleys, according to the U. S. Weather Bureau in its report for the week ending June 18, while there were heavy local falls in the Southwest. Moderate amounts were also reported from the western Ohio Valley, but in the eastern part only light showers occurred.

Precipitation was also light in most of the Atlantic area, extending from New England to southern Georgia. West of the Rocky Mountains the week was generally rainless. Heavy rains occurred in the western Lake region, but in the Northwest the amounts were light and scattered, except locally, mostly in central North Dakota.

Over a large area, comprising the Great Plains and many central valley sections, the first part of the week was too cool for good crop growth but the reaction to warmer weather the latter part caused rapid advance of most crops. Droughty conditions still prevail in the eastern and lower Ohio Valley and

many south-central parts of the country, while the western half had practically no rain during the week.

Heavy to excessive rains in the lower Missouri and upper Mississippi Valleys and in parts of the Southwest were detrimental to outside operations, but in parts, especially Missouri, the additional moisture was of great benefit, although too late to give maximum aid to the winter wheat crop. In some northern Mississippi Valley areas excessive rains and windstorms caused considerable crop and property damage, while heavy hail injured corn severely in Iowa.

High temperatures in local areas served to intensify the droughty conditions, especially in Kentucky and central California, while high, drying winds were reported from many districts of the Northwest. Beneficial showers occurred in many Atlantic sections, especially the Carolinas and some more northern areas.

#### Proposed Governmental Appropriations of Interest to Cannerymen

The President has transmitted to Congress a supplemental estimate of an appropriation of \$200,000 for the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year 1931, to enable the Department to carry into effect the new law to "suppress unfair practices in the marketing of perishable agricultural commodities."

The President has also transmitted an estimate of \$356,000 for the Department of Commerce for the fiscal year 1931, to enable the Department to proceed with the five-year construction and maintenance program of the Bureau of Fisheries authorized by a recently enacted law.

#### Care Urged in Bean Fertilization

Canning crops specialists at the New York State Experiment Station at Geneva are advising bean growers to use the utmost care in fertilizing their beans in order to avoid the burning of the seed, which wrought such havoc in many pea fields of the state this spring. Sowing the fertilizer in direct contact with the seed was responsible for the injury to peas, according to Station experts, who warn that beans are even more susceptible than peas to injury of this sort.

The unusually dry weather this spring is responsible for the general injury done pea plantings throughout the state where fertilizers were sown directly with the seed, although the practice is also nearly always reflected in lowered yields. Sowing the fertilizer in the row with the bean seed may result in a loss

of 20 per cent or more of the crop, particularly if dry weather should prevail just after planting.

If fertilizer is applied correctly, it will generally result in profitable increases in yield. If drilled in contact with the seed, however, it is likely to do more harm than good. The safest practice is to apply the fertilizer in a separate operation. Test plats will soon be available on the canning crops farm at Geneva which will show the right and the wrong method of fertilizing beans.

In general, fertilizers high in phosphorus are best for snap beans in New York State, it is said, and an application of from 300 to 600 pounds per acre of a 4-16-4 or a 4-12-4 fertilizer is recommended. A side-dressing of nitrate of soda or sulfate of ammonia after the beans are up is often practicable, particularly where the beans are planted early and appear yellow or stunted.

#### Publications of Interest to Canners

*Fusarium wilt in canning peas.*—"Inheritance of Fusarium Wilt Resistance in Canning Peas" is the title of Research Bulletin No. 97 from the Agricultural Experiment Station of Wisconsin University. The publication is of interest primarily to the plant breeders who are working to develop improved varieties of peas for canning. The mode of inheritance of resistance to fusarium wilt is described in detail as worked out by B. L. Wade in his pea breeding research at Wisconsin for the past few years.

*National retail credit survey.*—The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has issued Parts 2 and 3 of its reports on the national retail credit survey, which covers data secured from nearly 24,000 retail establishments which, in 1927, had net sales of over \$4,846,000,000. Part 3 includes summary tables of all the establishments from which data were secured. Part 2 has been issued as Domestic Commerce Series No. 34, and Part 3 as No. 36. Copies of the bulletins may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, for 10 cents each.

*Fresh tomatoes for market.*—The Department of Agriculture has issued a revision of its bulletin first published in 1922, on the preparation of fresh tomatoes for market. The bulletin, which contains a number of illustrations, discusses such subjects as relation of growing systems to marketing quality, commercial varieties, harvesting, packaging, grading, and inspection. The new publication is listed as Farmers' Bulletin No. 1291.